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For Immediate Release
August 29, 2014

Nevada Medicaid Reimbursement Increases for Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Services

Carson City, NV – The Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) recently received word the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Nevada's request to increase reimbursement rates to general acute care hospitals providing psychiatric inpatient services from \$460 to \$944 per day.

Increasing Medicaid's reimbursement to psychiatric providers is part of a multifaceted approach to improve access and availability of mental health services throughout the state. In May, the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council identified low reimbursement as one of 16 recommended items to address. The Governor directed the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to take immediate action on Medicaid reimbursement. DHHS submitted a State Plan Amendment to CMS to double the inpatient psychiatric reimbursement rate.

"I appreciate CMS's quick and agreeable response and I am optimistic this higher rate will encourage other medical facilities to provide adult inpatient psychiatric services in their

community,” said Romaine Gilliland, Director, DHHS. “Improving mental health services in Nevada is one of the Governor’s top priorities and I am pleased DHHS is able to help turn the dial to move the state forward towards this goal.”

The Governor’s decision to expand Medicaid coverage to low income adults as part of the Affordable Care Act mandate, contributed to the increased number of behavioral health clients now eligible for Medicaid coverage. The number of individuals receiving behavioral health services and enrolled as a Medicaid client has increased significantly from 30 to 75 percent in the last 12 months.

Currently only two acute medical hospitals provide inpatient psychiatric services – Carson Tahoe Health in Carson City, and Northeastern Regional Hospital in Elko. The new reimbursement rate is retroactive to July 1, 2014.

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